

Elgin Public Safety Committee - Minutes
Feb. 23, 1995 - Elgin Community Center

Attendance: Bobby Laber, Pat McDonald, John Stover, Merle Laci, and Kevin Cooper

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by John Stover. The committee discussed the design plans for the new ambulance and shared a package of information compiled by Bobby. Kevin and John asked when they could meet with the EMT crew and a meeting was set up for Thursday March 2, 1995 at the Ambulance Shed at 7:00 pm. Bobby indicated she would make copies of the package and make a request to Boise Cascade. John listed other sources of outside funding and indicated that each would also need to be approached for funding. These included Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Union County, US Forest Service (both Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman Forests), Oregon Department of Forestry, and other agencies to be identified later.

Merle reported that a salesperson from Cellular One would be contacting city council members about the phone services they provide. Kevin suggested the representative provide written information to Joe who could forward it to council members before the next council meeting. Several related conversations about cellular phones were also conducted.

Bobby indicated there was a need for more EMT's and that two people had expressed an interest in joining the team in the recent past. Both have national certification and would need to become licensed in Oregon which costs about \$400 and is extremely time consuming. The city's policy in the past has been that EMT's will only be compensated for training after they have been an active member for six (6) months. This is a very big barrier to getting new EMT volunteers in Elgin. Kevin and John indicated they would bring this before the council and request the policy be changed to reflect current policy for police officers.

Bobby reported that they had heard that the council had increased the run stipend this year but they have not received that increase. Kevin and John indicated that an increased stipend had been budgeted. Upon their review of the budget, they confirmed that the increase was budgeted. They will ask the city council for a clarification and ask for the increase be made retroactive to July 1, 1994.

Pat reported there were continuing problems with 911 services provided by the City of La Grande. He talked to Leonard Almquist, chair of the 911 user board who indicated that three other user groups have complained recently about the quality service slipping below tolerable standards. Leonard suggested that all Union County 911 Users should attend a 911 user board meeting and discuss this matter further. Pat or Dayton should let the council know when one is scheduled.

Kevin suggested the EMT crew and committee members put together a video as one of the tools to tell people why we need a new ambulance and use it as a fund raising tool. Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Kevin Cooper, Committee Co-chair